

## MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday | May 19, 2021  
12:30 PM

### REPORTS

1. **Chair's Report** – Hovland reported on the Unique Project Work Group. The Unique Projects Work Group met twice, on April 23 and May 7. We spent most of the first meeting grounding folks in the history of Unique Projects and the actions that preceded the recommendation to create a Unique Projects funding category. Staff lead the members through an open-ended discussion on the goals for the Unique Projects category, with a focus on what outcomes we are trying to achieve to affect the lives of people in the region. Based on the last meeting, it appears that environmental impacts, racial equity, innovation, and scalability (or regional impact) are the most prominent goals emerging from the discussions. We also learned about best practices from other grants programs administered by MnDOT and the Council. These presentations helped confirm that our direction moving forward is on a solid path but also highlighted some potential improvements we could consider. One example is having a two-step application process to gauge early interest in the funding category and consult with potential applicants on how their projects can best meet the goals of the program and TAB. In the next few meetings, we will finalize a recommendation for the goals and evaluation criteria for the funding category so that technical staff can start working on metrics. We will also begin conversations about minimum and maximum funding amounts, weighting of evaluation criteria, and how the evaluation process will work. The Work Group materials and meeting can be found at the following link. [Background and Details about the Regional Solicitation - Metropolitan Council \(metro council.org\)](#)
2. **MnDOT Report** – Barnes reported on two funding opportunities.
  1. Raise Grants are Due July 12<sup>th</sup>. [RAISE Discretionary Grants | US Department of Transportation](#)
  2. TED Letters of interest are due June 25<sup>th</sup>. [Funding Solicitation for State Highway Construction Projects in Calendar Years 2022 through 2024 - MnDOT](#)

**MPCA Report** – Biewen submitted information on the following to be sent out:

#### VW Settlement Program:

- Grants expected Spring 2021
  - School bus replacements (non-electric).** The MPCA intends to issue a grant RFP for the replacement of eligible diesel class school buses. Eligible replacement fuel types include diesel, propane, and natural gas.
  - Heavy-duty on-road vehicles and electric equipment.** The MPCA intends to combine two programs referenced in the Phase 2 Beneficiary Mitigation Plan into a single grant RFP.

#### Clean Cars MN

- Clean Cars MN
  - All materials are available on our website: [mn.gov/cleancars](http://mn.gov/cleancars)
  - On 5/7 the Administrative Law Judge published her report approving the proposed rule, stating:
    - "The MPCA established it has the statutory authority to adopt the proposed rules, it complied with all procedural requirements of law and rule, and that the proposed rules are needed and reasonable. Therefore, the Administrative Law Judge **APPROVES** the proposed rules and recommends they be adopted."
  - The report is available on our website above.
  - Information on next steps will be provided in future months.

The federal infrastructure bill includes funding for charging stations. MPCA is getting initial information right now. It is a substantial amount, but there is no information on how it would be distributed yet.

**MAC Report** – Crimmins reported on the following:

- 1) Terminal 1 received the "Grand Award" for construction of the Silver parking ramp from American Council of Engineering and Top Construction Project from Finance & Commerce.
- 2) Delta Airlines, the MAC's primary airline has been awarded #1 in Customer Service from J D Powers
- 3) April air traffic was at 47% of 2019, improving from 50% in March and 60% in January. We are seeing a steady improvement since January 2021.
- 4) Food and beverage service on flights is starting to improve but each airline has a different plan so for more information on your flight contact your airline.

**Metropolitan Council Report** – Barber reported that on June 12<sup>th</sup>, the Council will implement the quarterly service changes. This quarter we will begin the increase in local service as ridership begins to come back after the pandemic. Several routes are adding frequency of service to meet demand. One new route to highlight is the Route 63/323. This is an increase in service on route 63 in St. Paul and the extension of a new route into Maplewood and Woodbury from the Sun Ray shopping center. It will serve many jobs in Woodbury including the Woodwinds Hospital Area. This route expansion was funded in the Regional Solicitation.

The partnership between Metro Transit and Mn Department of Health continues for the mobile vaccine clinic. We are providing buses and drivers for pop-up vaccine sites throughout the Metro Area and in areas across the site. Each bus is outfitted and staffed to provide 150-200 vaccines per day and has proven very helpful at reaching populations that had lower vaccination rates.

**TAC Chair Report** – Solberg reported that information emailed prior to the TAB meeting on the Regional Bicycle Transportation Network, Bike Barrier Study and Truck Corridor Study update processes have gone through Funding and Programming Committee and TAC.

## **BUSINESS**

TAB approved the following items and they were forwarded to the Transportation Committee.

1. **2021-18:** 2021-2024 Four Streamlined TIP Amendments (*May 24, 2021, Transportation Committee*)

Transportation Advisory Board recommended that the Metropolitan Council adopt four amendments to the 2021-2024 TIP to:

1. add a bridge to, and expand the scope of, MnDOT's MN 55 bridge rehabilitation project (SP # 1909-99);
2. add a bridge to, and expand the scope of, MnDOT's MN 55 bridge re-decking project (SP # 2724-124);
3. add the removal of a free right turn to MnDOT's I-694 / Silver Lake Road ramp signal replacement project (SP # 6285-160); and
4. add a traffic management system project on MN 610 (SP # 2771-177).

2. **2021-19:** Release of the Draft 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for a public comment period

Transportation Advisory Board recommended release the draft 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program for public comment from May 23 to July 6, 2021. There will be a virtual public input meeting on June 22, 4:30 to 5:30.

## INFORMATION

1. Community-Based Coalition Work to Advance Regional Equity

Heidi Schallberg, Metropolitan Transportation Services, introduced this item. Presentation was made by Tawanna Black, Center for Economic Inclusion. The presentation is attached to the meeting link below.

2. Electric Vehicle Study

Tony Fischer, Metropolitan Transportation Services, Katelyn Bocklund, Great Plains Institute, presented this item. The item was presented to the Transportation Committee on April 26.

Link to May 19, 2021, TAB agenda and materials - <https://metro council.org/Council-Meetings/Committees/Transportation-Advisory-Board-TAB.aspx>